

Southeast Region Implementation Plan Action Items (FY06 and FY07) and Accomplishments (FY04 and FY05)						
Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/05	2006	2007	How Progress Will be Measured and/or Monitored	Milestone	Milestone Completion Date
Enhance observer programs in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl fishery.	Shrimp Amendment 13 (approved by the Council) establishes standardized reporting methodology.	Approve Shrimp 13.	Implement Shrimp 13.	Publication of notices in Federal Register.	Approve and implement Amendment 13.	Approve Sep-06; Final Rule published, amendment implemented Sep-07
Provide better bycatch estimates for red snapper and other species for the shrimp fishery with respect to season, depth, and location.	A shrimp regulatory amendment is being developed to modify the shrimp bycatch protocol criteria allowing NMFS to designate more efficient bycatch reduction devices.	Approve regulatory amendment.	Implement regulatory amendment.	Agency approval of regulatory amendment. Documentation of any work that was done to provide better bycatch estimates.	Agency approves and takes final Action on Regulatory Amendment.	Approve Sep-06; Implement Sep-07
Enhance observer programs in the Gulf of Mexico bottom longline reef fish fishery.	Observer program at baseline level, subject to annual finding.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of observer days completed with available funds.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept06 and Sep-07
Enhance observer programs in the South Atlantic shrimp trawl fishery.	Shrimp Amendment 6 (approved) specifies that 20% of annual observer funds will be used to monitor bycatch in the South Atlantic shrimp fishery.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of observer days completed with available funds.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sep-06 and Sep-07
Enhancement of education and outreach efforts. Continue partnership with fishermen and industry groups to research and develop effective bycatch reduction techniques.	A Bycatch Workshop for the Southeast Region is planned to discuss and prioritize bycatch issues pertaining to science & research, gear development & engineering, and data collection & monitoring (observer programs, logbooks, etc). The goal of the workshop will be to better understand bycatch issues in the Southeast Region, identify potential solutions that can reduce bycatch (discard mortality), and enhance ability to measure bycatch in the Southeast.	Conduct workshop and draft proceedings.	Complete proceedings.	Progress will be monitored through completion of the workshop and a Web based proceedings document.	Workshop Proceedings	Sep-07

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Continue the use of time/area closures for fisheries that have high bycatch of fishes, marine mammals, and sea turtles.	Existing time/area closures were maintained.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Maintain bycatch reduction provided by time/area closure.	Documentation of time/area closures.	Sept-06 and Sept-07
Provide better bycatch estimates for red snapper, vermilion snapper, and other reef fishes in the commercial and for-hire reef fish fishery with respect to season, depth, and location.	Reef Fish Amendment 22 (approved) implements a standardized reporting methodology through the development of an observer program for the commercial and for-hire reef fish fishery and use of MRFSS. Reef Fish Amendment 23 applies standardized bycatch reporting methodology to the entire reef fish complex including vermilion snapper.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Documentation of the number of observer sea days and number of intercepts by MRFSS.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sep-06 and Sep-07
Reduce red snapper bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp and reef fish fisheries.	New	Develop measures in Shrimp Amendment 14 and Reef Fish Amendment 27 to reduce red snapper bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico.	Approve Shrimp Amendment 14 and Reef Fish Amendment 27.	Approval of amendments that reduce red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp and bycatch reporting methodologies.	Approve amendments currently under development.	Sep-06 develop amendments; Sep-07 approve amendments.
Reduce and monitor bycatch in Caribbean fisheries.	New	Implement Caribbean Comprehensive SFA/EFH Amendment.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of the number of observer sea days.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sep-07
Enhance funding for bycatch studies.	FY05 priorities for the MARFIN and Cooperative Research Program were revised to better reflect research needs for stock assessments and bycatch as identified in the Region's Bycatch Implementation Plan.	Fund new proposals related to bycatch.	Fund new proposals related to bycatch.	Progress will be monitored through the funding and successful completion of bycatch related proposals.	MARFIN and CRP Annual Reports.	Sep-06

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Provide better bycatch estimates for protected species for the shark bottom longline fishery with respect to season, and location.	Observer program developed and subject to funding.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Information on protected resource bycatch would be made available to assess the overall effects mortality from this fishery has on protected resource stocks.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sep-06 and Sep-07
Use video cameras to provide better bycatch estimates of reef fish caught with bottom longline.	New	Develop CRP project to use video to monitor bycatch.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of longline sets sampled, video hours recorded, number of fish filmed, and number of boats sampled.	Provide maximum video footage with available funds.	Sep-07
Research new gear and fishing methods to reduce bycatch of PR species.	Draft Trawl Gear Action Plan has been completed by the Sea Turtle Strategy Coordinator.	The Sea Turtle Strategy Team will complete the Plan.	Research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in all trawl fisheries.	Completed rules to reduce sea turtle bycatch in trawl fisheries.	Implementation of the Trawl gear Action Plan.	Sep-06 and Sep-07
Conduct Research to test various gillnet gear modifications.	Cooperated with Sea Grant to review and award grant to conduct research to test various gillnet gear modifications recommended by the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team for mid-Atlantic coastal gillnet fisheries.	Continue to cooperate with Sea Grant to award grant(s) to conduct research on modified gear/fishery operations to reduce bycatch of bottlenose dolphins.	Continue research on operations to reduce bycatch; Implement new gear requirements as appropriate, in coordination with Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team.	Implement gear requirements as appropriate; monitor fishery takes to assess whether long term bycatch reduction objectives of the plan have been met.	Issue new grant(s) in 2006 to study impacts of modified gear/fishery operations on bottlenose dolphin bycatch; Complete gear research initiated in 2005.	Sep-06
Implement regulations to reduce leatherback turtle bycatch.	The SEFSC has completed research and development of a flounder TED capable of releasing leatherback turtles and a flynet TED.	Propose and finalize rules to require the use of the flounder TED and Flynet TED.	Schedule work shops with affected fishers on the use of these TEDs.	Monitor compliance with these new TED requirements.	Publish new rules in the FR.	Sep-06

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Implement regulations to reduce bottlenose dolphin bycatch.	Published a proposed rule to implement the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan to reduce mortality and serious injury of bottlenose dolphins to below Potential Biological Removal levels and to amend the Atlantic Large Mesh Gillnet Rule.	Publish final rule to implement the plan and amend the large mesh gillnet rule.	Reconvene the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team to review progress on the plan.	Monitor fishery takes to assess whether mortality and serious injury of bottlenose dolphins has been reduced to below stock's Potential Biological Removal level within 6 months of implementation of the plan (short term goal) and to insignificant levels approaching a zero rate within 5 years of implementation of the plan (long term goal).	Implement regulatory components of the plan.	Sep-06
Implement regulations to reduce pilot whale and risso dolphin bycatch.	Established an Atlantic Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team to develop a draft plan to reduce mortality and serious injury of marine mammals (spec. pilot whales and Risso's dolphins) incidental to the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery.	Work with the team to submit their draft plan in timeframe mandated by MMPA.	Implement regulatory components of the plan (as appropriate).	Monitor fishery takes to assess whether mortality and serious injury of marine mammals has been reduced to insignificant levels approaching a zero rate within 5 years of implementation of the plan.	Submit draft Take Reduction Plan.	Sep-06
Issue MMAP certificates to federally-permitted fishermen.	Issued Marine Mammal Authorization Program certificates to all Federally-permitted fishermen in the SE.	Issue MMAP certificates to federally-permitted fishermen, and expand issuance to include state-permitted fishermen in at least 5 coastal states.	Issue MMAP certificates to federally-permitted fishermen, and expand issuance to include state-permitted fishermen in at least 5 coastal states.	Monitor compliance with terms and conditions of MMAP authorization (i.e., comply with fishery regulations imposed under specific Take Reduction Plans and requirements to carry observers and report all mortalities and injuries of marine mammals).	Issue MMAP certificates.	Sep-06
Assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on sea turtles.	Contracts have been issued to characterize state and federal fisheries as part of the Sea Turtle Strategy.	Completed characterizations of state and Federal fisheries.	Research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in these fisheries.	Completed Characterization and rules to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries that affect sea turtles.	Completed fisheries characterization	Sep-06 & Sep-07

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Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/05	2006	2007	How Progress Will be Measured and/or Monitored	Milestone	Milestone Completion Date
Assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on MM species.	Assessed levels of marine mammal mortalities and serious injuries in all state and Federal commercial fisheries and provided recommendations for revising annual List of Fisheries to categorize fisheries according to level of bycatch.	Provide F/PR with recommended revisions to List of Fisheries; respond to comments on proposed changes.	Provide F/PR with recommended revisions to List of Fisheries; respond to comments on proposed changes.	Revised List of Fisheries will be published annually.	Develop and forward to F/PR recommended revisions to 2007 LOF.	Sep-06
Assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on bottlenose dolphin.	Issued contract to characterize bycatch of fish and PR species in NC stop net fishery, as recommended by Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team.	Complete bycatch characterization study.	Present study results to Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team and revise Plan as necessary to address bycatch of bottlenose dolphins.	Monitor takes of bottlenose dolphins in stop net fishery to assess whether mortality and serious injury of bottlenose dolphins in that fishery has been reduced to meet overall goals of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan.	Complete bycatch characterization study.	Sep-06
Assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on PR species.	Completed ESA biological opinions on the Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery, the Caribbean spiny lobster, queen conch, reef fish, corals and coral reef fisheries, and the South Atlantic Shrimp fishery on smalltooth sawfish.	Continue to assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on PR species via monitoring of take and reinitiation of consultations as necessary.	Completed reinitiation analyses and biological opinions.	Completed reinitiation analyses and biological opinions.	Complete an ESA biological opinion on the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic coastal migratory.	Sep-06

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Inform fishermen and the public about bycatch of PR species and measures being implemented to reduce bycatch.	Provided information regarding bycatch of PR species via directed mailings, presentations and information provided at Council and Commission meetings and other fora, and on website postings.	Provide information to Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishermen regarding smalltooth sawfish.	Provide information about current bycatch levels and ongoing measures to reduce bycatch in MMAP mailings to commercial fishermen.	Monitor compliance of commercial fishermen with regulations regarding bycatch of marine mammals (Take Reduction Plans, observer programs, reporting requirements).	Provide written information to fishermen along with their MMAP certificates.	Sep-06
Provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan.	Developed Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan.	Provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan.	Provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan.	Monitor compliance of fishermen with regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (spatial and temporal gear operating requirements, requirements to carry observers); Monitor fishery takes to assess whether short and long term bycatch reduction goals of the plan have been met.	Hold workshops in 13 coastal towns along mid-Atlantic and conduct numerous dockside visits.	Sep-06
Provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Developed Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Monitor compliance of fishermen with yet-to-be-developed regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan; Monitor fishery takes to assess whether the bycatch reduction goals of the plan have been met.	Develop and disseminate materials outlining the components of the team's draft plan and next steps that will be taken by NMFS to implement the plan.	Sep-06